(c) (i) Government has taken effective steps to save the various aromatic traditional rice varieties from becoming extinct. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack has a Genetic Resources Division which is particularly addressing to the problem of collection and conservation of rice varieties particularly that of aromatic rice.

(ii) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi at the national level in the last 5 years have funded a NATP Project on "Plant Bio-diversity on Mission Mode" in which as many as 547 rice varieties have been collected and a number of them are of aromatic types. The National Gene Bank at NBPGR presently holds 66,594 rice accessions of which 60,759 are indigenous. The indigenous collection includes aromatic rice from different parts of the country, for example there are 136 accessions of scented rice from eastern U.P.

(iii) In addition through the ICAR Network Programme on "Genetic Enhancement of Aromatic Short Grain Rices for Higher Productivity and Export" as many as 200 accessions of aromatic rice varieties have been collected and evaluated which on documentation would be submitted to NBPGR, New Delhi for long term storage by Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad.

States growing Bt. cotton

†507. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the approved variety and unapproved variety of Bt. Cotton are being produced in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the names of States where approved variety and unapproved variety of Bt. Cotton are likely to be produced in 2004-05?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests has so far granted permission to four hybrids of Bt. Cotton for commerical cultivation in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. There have been some reports of production of spurious Bt. Cotton Seeds in a few States. The State Governments have been advised to take appropriate action against producers of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds under the Rules for the Manufacture, Use/ Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cell, 1989 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the seeds legislation.

Quality and production difference from trial stage

†508. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research work in the field of agriculture made by the research institutions of the country are used by themselves at their own farms;

(b) if so, whether farmers are getting the same quality and production in terms of quantity in their fields which is assessed at the time of trial farming of the same;

(c) if not, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) to what extent the average percentage of production is less?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The agricultural research institutions develop technology and test it at their own farms for its suitability before recommending for large scale adoption by the farmers.

(b) and (c) Farmers can ideally get the same quality and quantity of produce as generated in research farm provided they follow the recommended technology package in totality. In actual field conditions the productivity and production differ from that generated at the research farms because of varying growing conditions and input use.

(d) Because of the non/partial adoption of technology there is, at

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.